Mark scheme
January 2002

GCE

Physics A

Unit PA09

Instructions to Examiners

1 Give due credit to alternative treatments which are correct. Give marks for what is correct; do not deduct marks because the attempt falls short of some ideal answer. Where marks are to be deducted for particular errors specific instructions are given in the marking scheme.

2 Do not deduct marks for poor written communication. Refer the script to the Awardsmeeting if poor presentation forbids a proper assessment. In each paper candidates may be awarded up to two marks for the Quality of Written Communication in cases of required explanation or description. However, no candidate may be awarded more than the total mark for the paper. Use the following criteria to award marks:

  2 marks: Candidates write with almost faultless accuracy (including grammar, spelling and appropriate punctuation); specialist terms are used confidently, accurately and with precision.

  1 mark: Candidates write with reasonable and generally accurate expression (including grammar, spelling and appropriate punctuation); specialist terms are used with reasonable accuracy.

  0 marks: Candidates fail to reach the threshold for the award of one mark.

3 An arithmetical error in an answer should be marked 'AE' thus causing the candidate to lose one mark. The candidate's incorrect value should be carried through all subsequent calculations for the question and, if there are no subsequent errors, the candidate can score all remaining marks (indicated by ticks). These subsequent ticks should be marked 'CE' (consequential error).

4 With regard to incorrect use of significant figures, normally a penalty is imposed if the number of significant figures used by the candidate is one less, or two more, than the number of significant figures used in the data given in the question. The maximum penalty for an error in significant figures is **one mark per paper**. When the penalty is imposed, indicate the error in the script by 'SF' and, in addition, write 'SF' opposite the mark for that question on the front cover of the paper to obviate imposing the penalty more than once per paper.

5 No penalties should be imposed for incorrect or omitted units at intermediate stages in a calculation or which are contained in brackets in the marking scheme. Penalties for unit errors (incorrect or omitted units) are imposed only at the stage when the final answer to a calculation is considered. The maximum penalty is **one mark per question**.

6 All other procedures, including the entering of marks, transferring marks to the front cover and referrals of scripts (other than those mentioned above) will be clarified at the standardising meeting of examiners.

Section A: Nuclear Instability

1(a)(i) (inner) orbiting electron [or electron surrounding the nucleus] ✓
captured by a <u>proton</u> (in the nucleus) ✓
converted into a neutron ✓

  (ii) daughter nuclide/nucleus/atom might be excited and
energy given up as electromagnetic radiation
[or orbiting electrons drop down to fill space (left by captured electron)] ✓

  (iii) $_{83}^{203}\text{Bi} \rightarrow _{82}^{203}\text{Pb} + _{1}\beta^{+}$ ✓ $+ \nu_{(e)}$ ✓ $(+Q)$ [allow $_{1}^{0}\text{e}^{+}$ for $_{1}\beta^{+}$]   max (5)

(b)(i) (use of $N = N_0 e^{-\lambda t}$ and $N \propto$ activity gives)
$290 = 1200 \exp(-\lambda \times 24 \times 60 \times 60)$ ✓
$\lambda = \dfrac{\ln(1200 / 290)}{24 \times 60 \times 60}$ ✓ $(= 1.64 \times 10^{-5}\,\text{s}^{-1})$

  (ii) (use of $T_{\frac{1}{2}} = \ln 2 / \lambda$ gives) $T_{\frac{1}{2}} = \dfrac{\ln 2}{1.64 \times 10^{-5}}$ ✓
$= 4.2(3) \times 10^{4}\,\text{s}$ ✓ $(= 11.(7)\,\text{hr})$
(use of $\lambda = 1.6 \times 10^{-5}\,\text{s}^{-1}$ gives $T_{\frac{1}{2}} = 4.3 \times 10^{4}\,\text{s}$ or 12 hr)

  (iii) (use of $\dfrac{\Delta N}{\Delta t} = -\lambda N$ gives) $(-)1200 = (-)1.64 \times 10^{-5}\,N$ ✓
$N = 7.3(2) \times 10^{7}$ (nuclei) ✓
(use of $\lambda = 1.6 \times 10^{-5}\,\text{s}^{-1}$ gives $N = 7.5 \times 10^{7}$ (nuclei))   max (5)

<u>(10)</u>

Section B: Electronics

2(a)(i) (maximum) voltage across resistor = 15 − 6.8 = 8.2 (V) ✓

$I = \dfrac{8.2}{200} = 41 \text{ mA}$ ✓

(ii) for the diode, (use of $P = VI$ gives) $I = \dfrac{400(\text{mW})}{6.8} = 59\,(\text{mA})\ (58.8\,\text{mA})$ ✓

(minimum) resistance = $\dfrac{8.2}{59} = 140\ \Omega$ ✓ $(139\,\Omega)$ (4)

(b) $(f = \dfrac{1}{T})$ gives $T = 20\,\text{ms}$ ✓

screen to show:
   sinusoidal rectified wave ✓
   positive half-wave clipped at 6.8 V ✓
   negative half-wave clipped at ≈ 0.6 V ✓
   correct time scale with period of 20 ms ✓   max (4)

                                                                    (8)

3(a)(i)
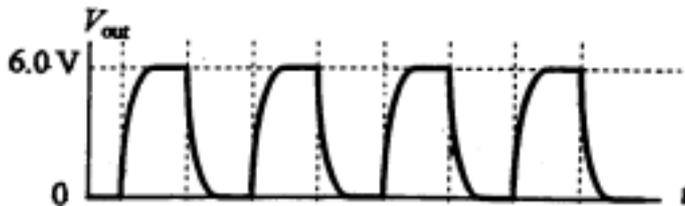
correct increase of V_{out} ✓
flat portion at 6.0 V ✓
correct decrease of V_{out} with flat portion at 0 V ✓

(ii)   time constant $= 200 \times 10^3 \times 1.0 \times 10^{-6} = 0.2$ s ✓

(iii)
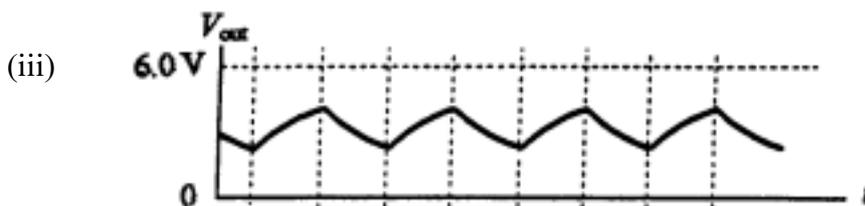
correct general shape of trace ✓
output voltage > 0 and < 6.0 V ✓   (6)

(b)   in graph B, time constant < wave period ✓
capacitor charges and discharges almost completely ✓
in graph C, time constant = wave period ✓
capacitor does not charge or discharge completely ✓   max (3)

                                                                    (9)

4(a)(i) negative feedback: part or all of the output is fed back to the input

180° out of phase ✓

achieved through R_f ✓

(ii) greater stability
less distortion   any two ✓ ✓
increased bandwidth
gain predictable   *(4)*

(b) [use of $V_{out} = -R_f \left(\dfrac{V_1}{R_1} + \dfrac{V_2}{R_2} \right)$ to give] $V_{out} = -(V_1 + 2V_2)$ ✓
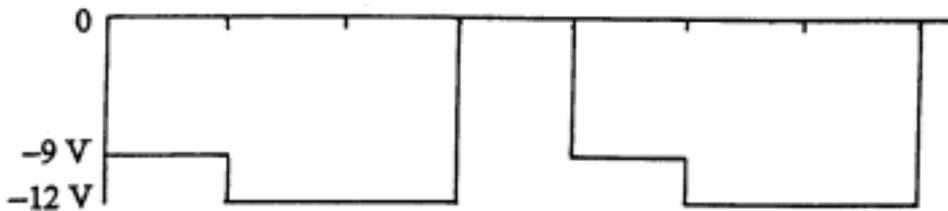
negative values ✓
correct 9 V and 12 V ✓
saturation ✓
repeated ✓   max *(4)*

(8)

5(a) all diodes correct ✓ ✓   *(2)*

(b) maximum forward current ≥ 150 mA gives diode B or C ✓
peak reverse voltage = 17 V gives diode C or D ✓
correct diode is C ✓   *(3)*

(5)

The Quality of Written Communication Marks are awarded primarily for the quality of answers to Q1(a)(i)(ii) and Q3(b)